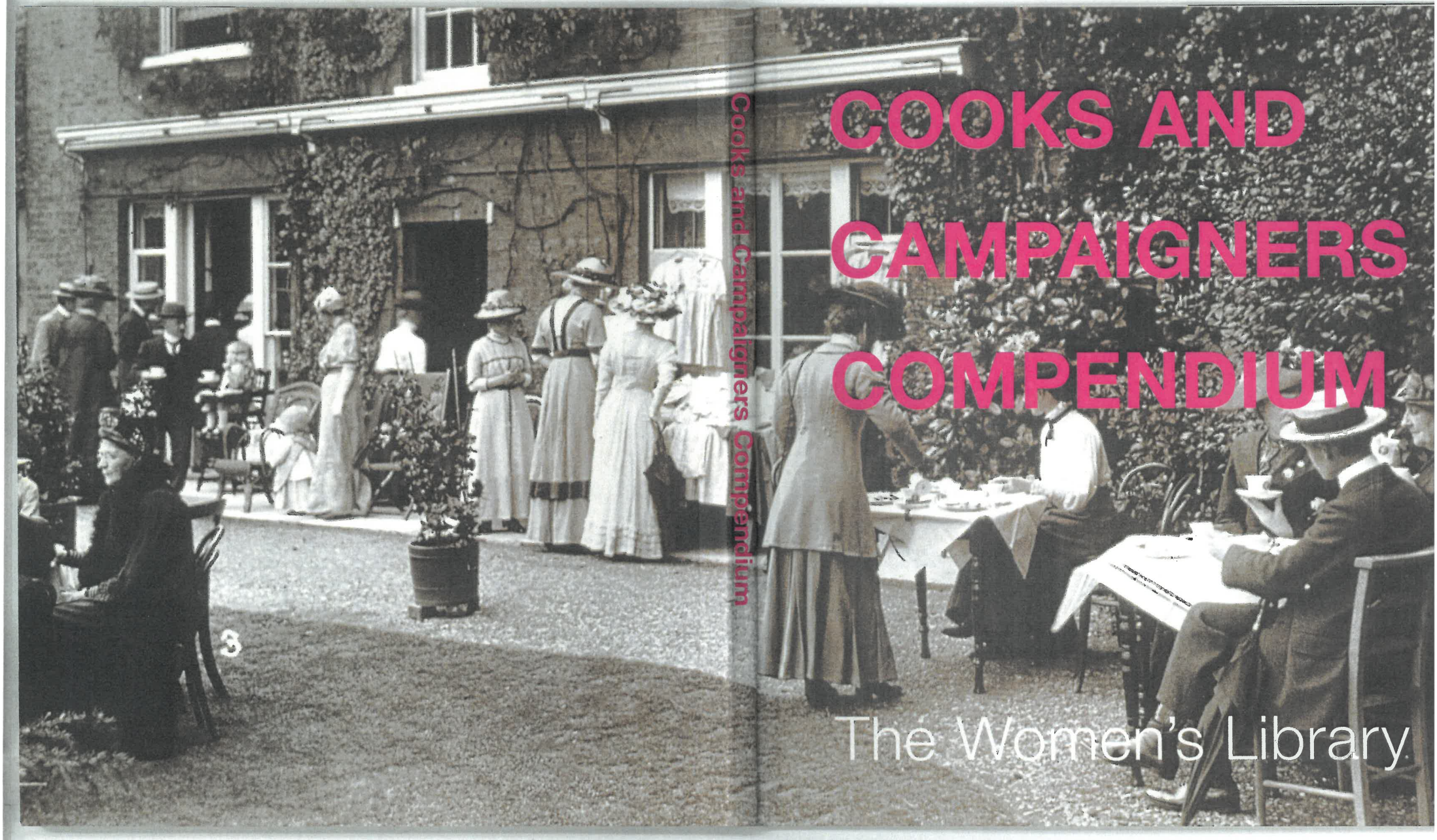

COOKS AND CAMPAIGNERS COMPENDIUM

The Women's Library

Cooks and Campaigners Compendium

COOKS AND CAMPAIGNERS COMPENDIUM

THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

celebrating and recording women's lives

Cooks and Campaigners Compendium

The Cooks and Campaigners Compendium is published on the occasion of the Cooks and Campaigners exhibition and the launch of **The Women's Library**

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Cover image: A suffrage garden party, *c.*1911

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Contents

4 INTRODUCTION
Antonia Byatt, Director
The Women's Library

10 CAMPAIGNING

26 LAW

34 WORK

42 FASHION AND LIFESTYLE

50 COOKERY

56 HEALTH

64 TRAVEL

70 SELECTORS

72 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Introduction

The exhibition 'Cooks and Campaigners: An Introduction to The Women's Library' comes at a unique moment for the Library. It is the first time so much of our extraordinary collections has been displayed at the same time and it coincides with the opening of our new building in Old Castle Street. Built on the site of Whitechapel Wash Houses, the building has been designed by Wright & Wright to house the Library for the future. We hope the exhibition will reveal some of the history of the collections and lead people to explore them further in the beautiful research library upstairs.

By looking through our archives, examining the story of our library and how it has grown, it is possible to trace some of the major issues that have concerned women collectively over the last three hundred years or more. Many items on display were specifically designed to make a public impact, to be borne high in a march or worn proudly on a lapel. Other items are more intimate; recipes passed down from mother to daughter, personal diaries, the contents of a woman's purse removed from her body at the moment of her death. It is not possible to make definitive sense of women's lives over that period and looking at the display will raise as many questions as it gives answers. However, the library and its collections provide a remarkable window on to women's public and private lives.

The Library grew out of the London Society for Women's Suffrage, which was founded in 1867. It started its formal life as a Library with the appointment of Vera Douie, its first Librarian, in 1926, and

headquarters in Marsham Street, with a café and lecture theatre. Subsequently, the Library was renamed The Fawcett Library after Millicent Garrett Fawcett. She had been the president of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and campaigned for the vote constitutionally, persisting throughout World War I, and beyond. Much of our suffrage material derives from these connections.

After the vote was won, the Library became a useful resource for women who were hoping to enter the professions. It provided them with information and fodder to further their careers, and was often used by policy makers to gather statistics about women's employment and pay. Vera Douie, who worked for the Library for 41 years, relied on donations to build up the Library and she wrote letters to many prominent women asking them to contribute. Both Virginia Woolf and Vera Brittain were among these supporters, often visiting the Library and working there. As the Library developed other collections were donated, including the Cavendish Bentinck Library in 1931 which contains much of our 17th and 18th century material, the Sadd Brown Library in 1939 named after the suffragette Myra Sadd Brown, and the Josephine Butler Society Library in 1951.

Some people still remember the Library in its first home in Marsham Street, and its second in an old pub in Wilton Street, where the Librarian's desk strongly resembled a bar. In 1977, after a steep rise in rent, the Library moved to what was then City of London Polytechnic, saved by the joint efforts of Cynthia White and Rita Pankhurst, and supported by the Friends of the Fawcett Library, who subsequently raised much of the funding that supplemented its existence at the Polytechnic (which became London Guildhall University).

A suffrage fund-raising garden party, *c.*1911

The Library was, however, always short of funds, and relied on the commitment of the women who used it and saw it as essential. We are not the only library about women in the country, but we are the largest. Much has changed in women's lives since the Library was founded, and for that reason many see its role as crucial, documenting a major part of recent social history. There wasn't money to build the collection grandly, but many people have contributed books, archives and objects to it over the years. This can give the collections a maverick feel, but that is part of their joy. The Library has certainly inspired commitment in its staff as well as its users and Friends. The last Librarian, David Doughan, served the Library for 23 years, building its collections and commanding an extraordinary knowledge of women's campaigning.

Since 1977 the Library has lived in a basement at London Guildhall University, hard to find, charming but cramped. Visitors from all over the world have visited it, but so has rain and, even worse, sewage. After the third flood the University decided the Library must be rehoused in order to survive and successfully applied for a grant from The Heritage Lottery Fund. In 1998 £4.2m was awarded and building started on the site of the old Wash Houses in Old Castle Street. The new five-story building is the realisation of a dream for the people who have built and cared for the Library over the last 75 years.

'Cooks and Campaigners' offers a glimpse of what can be found in the new Library. Though our strength lies in the suffrage collections we felt it was important to illustrate the breadth of subjects addressed. We've organised the collections into approachable categories – Work, Law, Health, Fashion and Lifestyle, Cookery, Travel

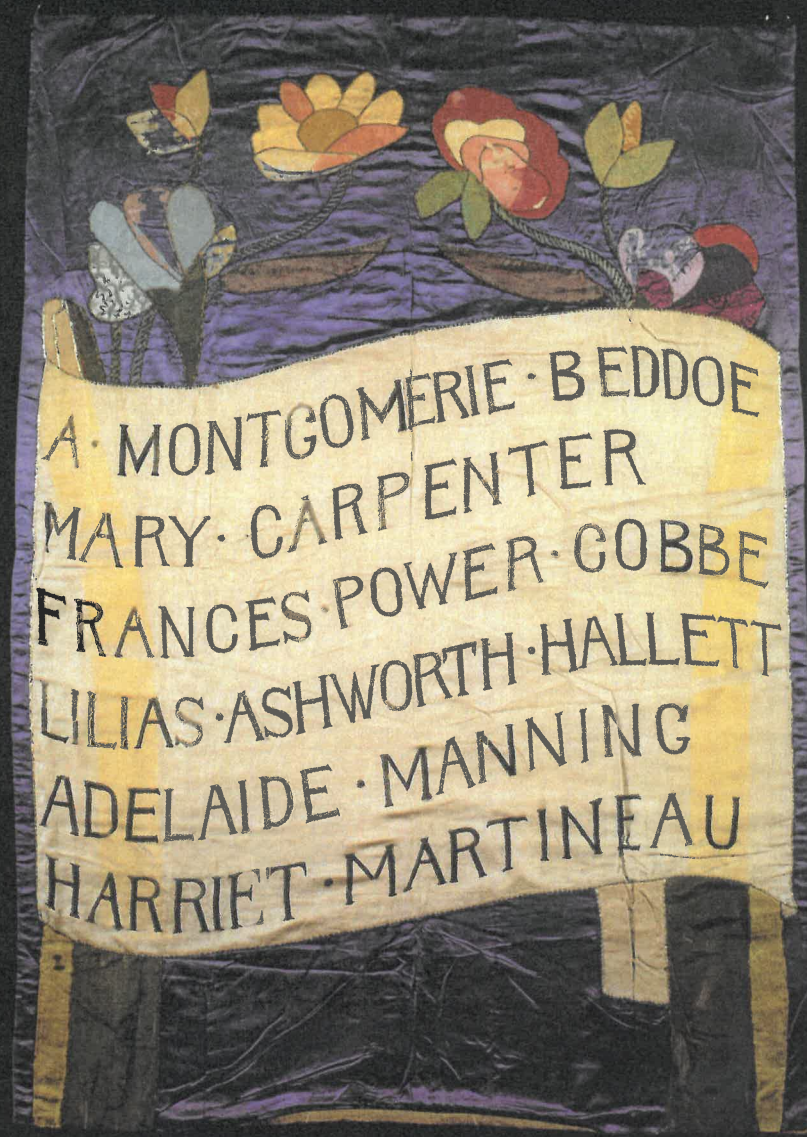
and Suffrage. They overlap and lead into each other, offering different routes into the concerns of the Library, demonstrating how much has changed in women's lives and how much has remained the same.

We've also tried to choose some of the most visually arresting material, since many of our objects, posters and textiles were designed to catch people's attention. Whether beautiful, disturbing or witty they tell an unforgettable story of causes that either seem unbelievable now (women disenfranchised) or which linger on (domestic violence), but they are also an interesting record of the techniques used to bring those points home. Many of our banners were designed to be the right weight for women to carry, to be objects of beauty which could be exhibited as well as paraded. Together with many of the posters, magazines and other campaigning paraphernalia, they belie a view held by some that the women's movement has been over earnest. Often produced by small collectives and campaigning groups, it is easy to imagine the hours, comradery and passion put into such enterprises.

The Library will continue to grow. It is quite clear from looking at 'Cooks and Campaigners' that there are gaps in our collections. They do not reflect the experiences of all women in Britain by any means and in the future we will strive to do that better. We may guess at the campaigns of tomorrow, from genetic engineering to the work/life balance, but some will be hidden from our view. The new building is a place for people to debate and explore what the future may hold for women. The Library has been built through the active support of many women and men over the years; now that we have space to grow we hope people will continue to help us build our collections. The story of our collections is not over.

Antonia Byatt, Director

CAMPAIGNING



Banner celebrating some of the women who signed the 1866 petition on Women's Suffrage, c.1908

Campaign poster from the Equal Opportunities Commission collection, c.1980

The irony looks embarrassingly heavy-handed now. But back in 1971, when I returned from school in the Caribbean to a male dominated university, I learnt that in post-*Female Eunuch* London men were men and women were for recreation. Even in Imperial College, the elite science campus – geek city, really – people actually lived this rubbish. Manliness was measured in yards of ale; social standing secured by pinning women's knickers behind the men-only (yes men-only) Student Union bar. And we were probably the brightest of our generation – the place was stiff with past and future Nobel prize winners. We changed it, of course, and today's students would be appalled. But one sobering thought – we who tolerated this for so long are now in charge. Have we really changed?

Trevor Phillips

11, Downing Street,
Whitehall.S.W.

30th November, 1911.

My dear Mrs. Fawcett,

(I thank you for your appreciative note, which I value very much coming from you.) I have been very unhappy about the prospects during the last few days. The action of the Militants is alienating sympathy from the women's cause in every quarter: I felt the depressing influence even at the meeting at Bath. Tuesday's violence and last night's indecent exhibition, when the Prime Minister supporting a charitable institution was howled down in a place of worship, have between them created a very grave situation. If next year's chances of carrying either a women's amendment or a Bill are not to be totally ruined some emphatic action must be taken at once. You can hardly realise what the feeling is even amongst Members of Parliament who have hitherto been steadiest in their support of Women's Suffrage. I feel confident that if these tactics are persisted in our hopes of being able to secure the ~~(confirmation)~~ insertion of a Women's Suffrage amendment in next year's Bill will be of the slightest. I have consulted Sir Edward Grey and other friends of the movement and they take an equally serious view of the situation. What do you suggest? Anti-Suffragists are of course exultant. ~~(and I)~~ They feel confident that the effect of our agitation will be neutralised by the antics of the Militants.

Very sincerely yours.

(signed) D. Lloyd George
Mrs. Henry Fawcett.

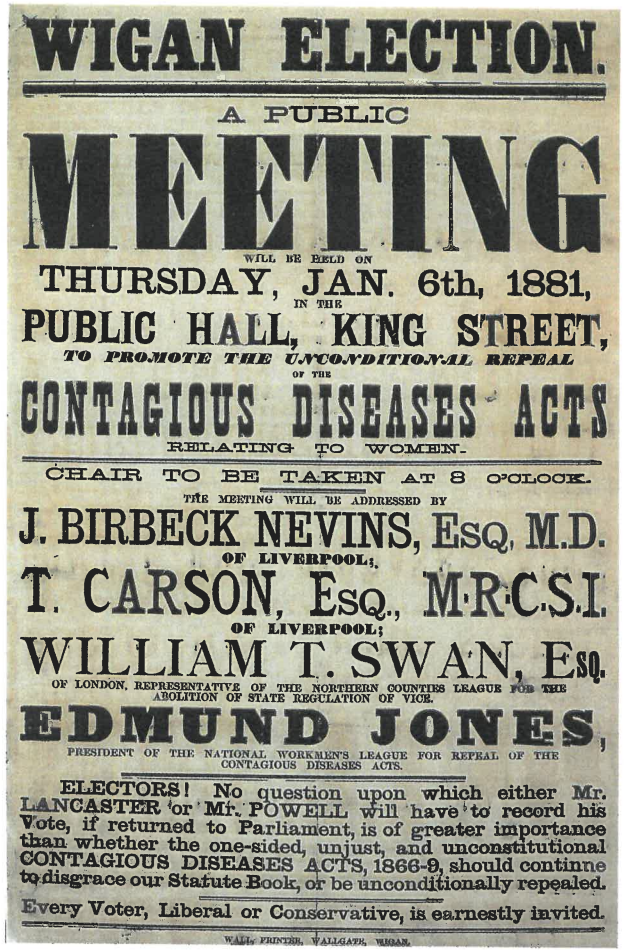
Transcription of a letter from D. Lloyd George to Mrs Fawcett, 30 November, 1911

Women's Social and Political Union 'branded' tea set, *c.*1910
Its delicate design of prison chains and winged angel evokes a poignant Edwardian elegance. The tea set is just visible in the photograph of the very respectable bring-and-buy fundraising garden-party (cover image), replete with well-ironed tablecloths, boaters and serious millinery.
Jill Liddington

Justice at the door, poster designed by Mary Lowndes, 1912

If Mary Lowndes came back today, would Britannia still be outside the door? With only 18% of MPs being women, surely the door is still only ajar and Justice merely on the threshold?
Helen Carey

Poster promoting a public meeting to repeal the Contagious Diesease Acts, 1881



WIGAN ELECTION.

A PUBLIC

MEETING

WILL BE HELD ON

THURSDAY, JAN. 6th, 1881,

IN THE

PUBLIC HALL, KING STREET,

TO PROMOTE THE UNCONDITIONAL REPEAL

OF THE

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS

RELATING TO WOMEN.

CHAIR TO BE TAKEN AT 8 O'CLOCK.

THE MEETING WILL BE ADDRESSED BY

J. BIRBECK NEVINS, ESQ, M.D.

OF LIVERPOOL;

T. CARSON, ESQ., M.R.C.S.I.

OF LIVERPOOL;

WILLIAM T. SWAN, ESQ.

OF LONDON, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NORTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE FOR THE ABOLITION OF STATE REGULATION OF VICE.

EDMUND JONES,

PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL WORKMEN'S LEAGUE FOR REPEAL OF THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS.

ELECTORS! No question upon which either Mr. LANCASTER or Mr. POWELL will have to record his Vote, if returned to Parliament, is of greater importance than whether the one-sided, unjust, and unconstitutional CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ACTS, 1866-9, should continue to disgrace our Statute Book, or be unconditionally repealed.

Every Voter, Liberal or Conservative, is earnestly invited.

WALL, PRINTER, WALLGATE, WIGAN.

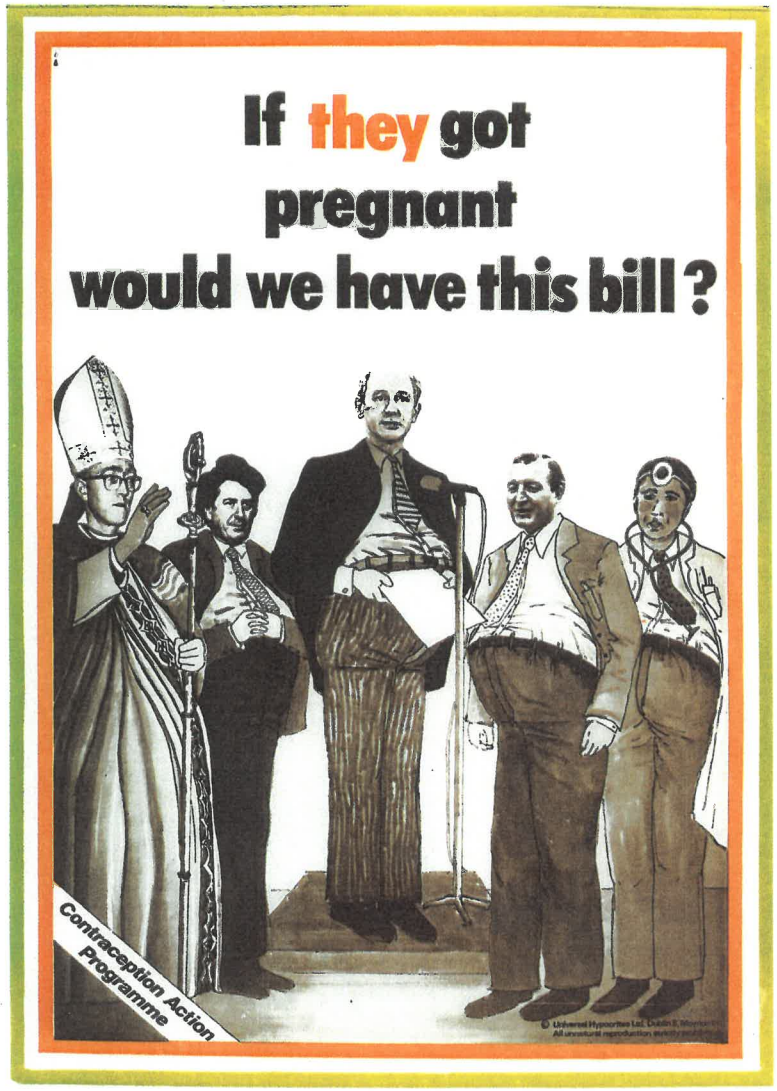
At 1:30 am on April 21, 1881, Josephine Butler was in the Ladies' Gallery when, after an all-night debate, the acts were at last repealed by a majority vote of 182 to 110.

Margaret Forster

Coming In With The Tide, designed by Emily J. Harding Andrews, Published by the Artists' Suffrage League, c. 1908

During the Great Storm of 1824, Mrs Partington, a latter-day Cnut, was reputed to have sought to keep the Atlantic Ocean at bay with her broom. This symbol of reaction had been used during the campaign for political reform in the early 1830s, demonstrating the inevitability of change.

Angela V. John



Campaign poster issued by the Contraception Action Programme from the Equal Opportunities Commission collection, c.1979

Campaign poster from the Equal Opportunities Commission collection, c.1980

The women's liberation movement made a new kind of politics out of daily life. It translated the oppressive details of existence into a protest which combined working conditions with personal relationships, challenged state policy and talked about loving.

Sheila Rowbotham

Women's Suffrage poster, published by the Suffrage Atelier, c.1912

It's an image of power and potential in waiting – to be achieved within the decade.

Kate Adie

Torturing Women in Prison, c.1912

The Government responded [to hunger strikes] by forcibly feeding the women, a procedure justified as necessary 'hospital treatment' to save lives but which the hunger strikers experienced as torture.

June Purvis

Equal Rights, 1 October 1932

Equal Rights

VOL. XVIII, No. 35
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 1, 1932

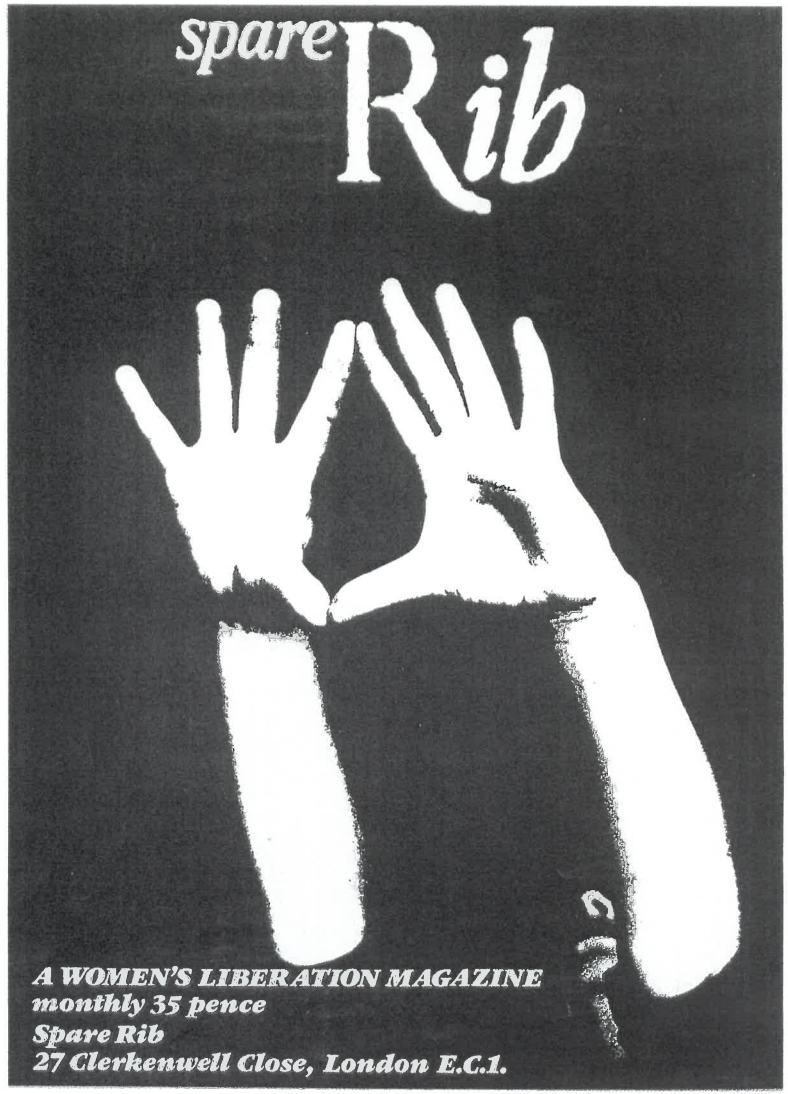
Courtesy International News.

Amelia Earhart at the White House

This picture was taken after the Equal Rights Conference which Miss Earhart had with the President. She was accompanied by Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, National Chairman, National Woman's Party, and Anita Pollitzer, Vice-Chairman.

Equal Pay demonstration outside the Houses of Parliament, 1954

Greenham Common campaign poster, 1981–91



Poster for *Spare Rib*, 1972

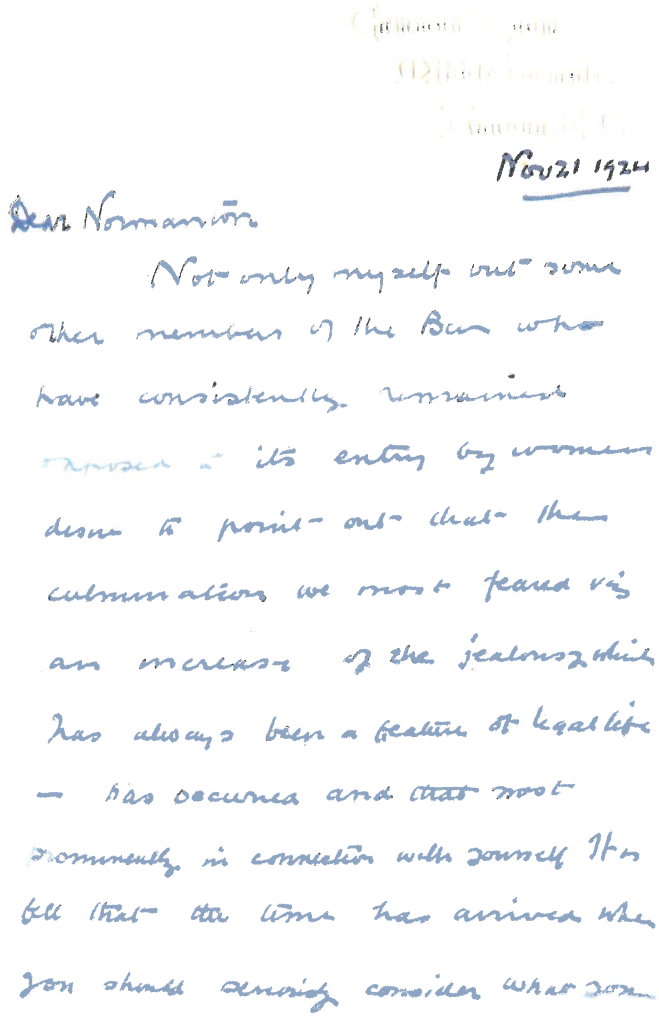
Banner celebrating Queen Elizabeth I, designed by Mary Lowndes, 1908

LAW

Helena Normanton in her judicial wig and gown, c.1922

I felt an immediate bond with Helena Normanton when I heard about her battle to keep her maiden name both professionally and as a private citizen… As she pointed out in one of her articles the use of one's maiden name is an old English practice – everyone has heard of Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Catherine Parr… As she summed up: 'Whatever King Henry VIII may have done in the way of removing his Queen's heads, it never occurred to him to remove and obliterate the name they were born to'.

Cherie Booth QC



Nov 21 1924

Dear Normanton

Not only myself but some other members of the Bar who have consistently remained opposed to its entry by women desire to point out that the culmination we most feared viz an increase of the jealousy which has always been a feature of legal life – has occurred and that most prominently in connection with yourself. It is till that the time has arrived when you should seriously consider what you

A letter to Helena Normanton from 'Wellwishers', 21 November 1924

Common Room.
Middle Temple.
London.E.C.

Nov 21 1924

Dear Normanton

Not only myself but some other members of the Bar who have consistently remained opposed to its entry by women desire to point out that the culmination we most feared viz an increase of the jealousy which has always been a feature of legal life — has occurred and that most prominently in connection with yourself. It is felt that the time has arrived when you should seriously consider what some will do to limit and lessen the amount of gossip in circulation about yourself.

No doubt your partial successes have caused the other women envy so this letter is not sent in any spirit of censure, but are you <u>really</u> so unaware as you seem to be of the origin of the comments upon you? There was trouble at Winchester and also at Clerkenwell. In every case those starting it have had one feature in common they have been friends of Miss Ashford; nor is it any secret that she openly makes statements about your mode of life, literary work, marriage, and what is most important to us, your professional code which unless true have gone in the opinion of many, more than far enough. They are not we think to any extent true but your own impassity is being remarked upon.

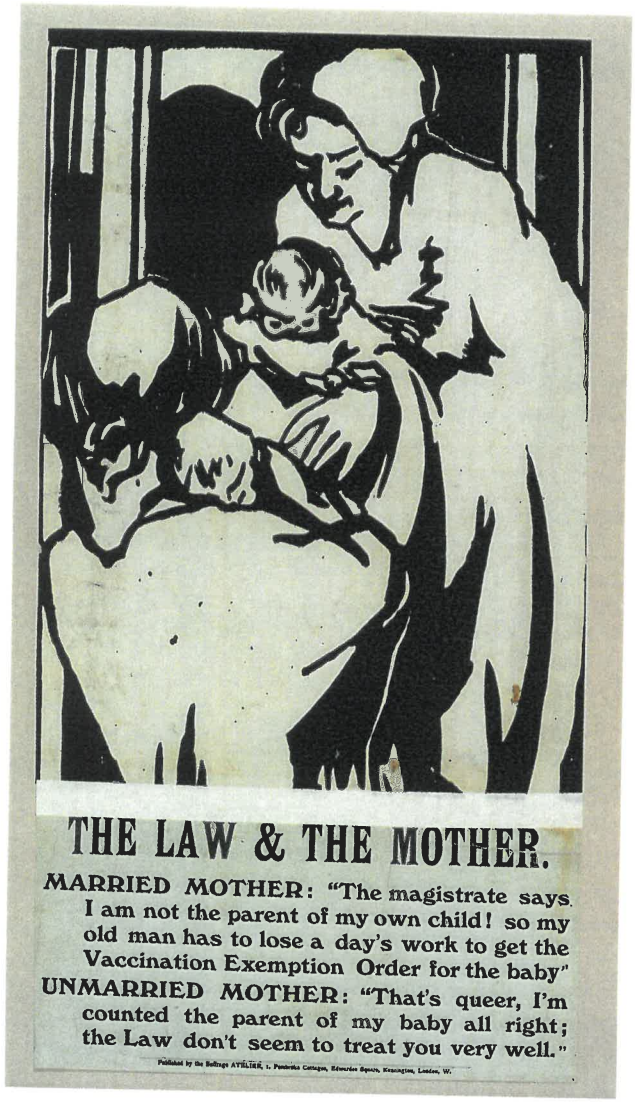
We are informed that there has been a letter sent to the Bar Council about some action of yours and this lady has the credit — if there be any credit in one barrister reporting another to the Bar Council (it is such an unpleasing novelty induced by feminine jealousy) — of being the true inspirer of it. Although the letter is said to have fallen very flat and merely to have bored the Council yet the malevolence of the intention is very plain.

Those taking the liberty of advising you in this letter do at least recommend that you do not continue to ask this lady to your house and to treat her as if she was a valued friend. Such friendliness is much misunderstood in a world where people are expected to guard their honour closely, especially and above all in our profession.

We hope you will not resent this letter. We are acquainted with the results of the searching and satisfactory enquiry held by the late Sir Robert Muir into your professional behaviour. But you are not being prudent in ignoring what is going on now. The lady mentioned should either withdraw or substantiate.

We ask you to consider this letter primarily from the point of view of our great profession and secondarily from your own. This letter is unsigned simply because it represents the views of a group of barristers not of one but we can all say we are (reserving the question of the desirability of women in the profession)

Yours Wellwishers

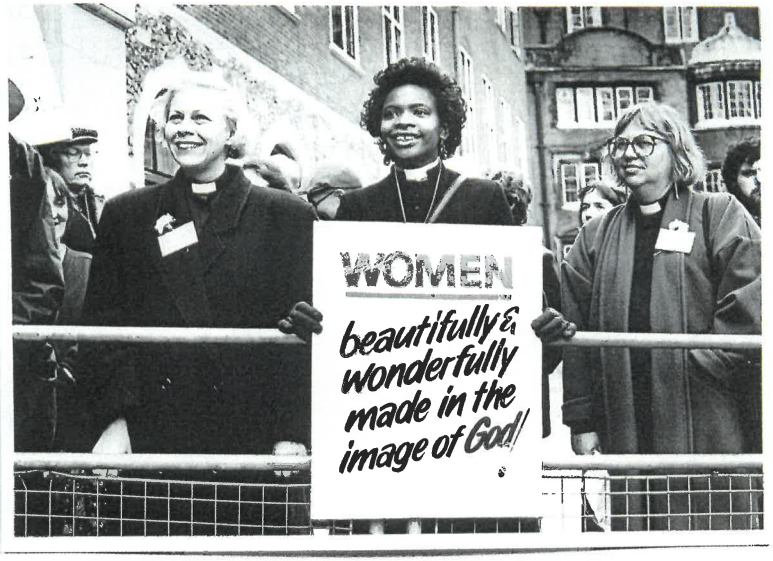


The Law and the Mother, published by the Suffrage Atelier, c.1909

How The Law Protects the Daughters, published by the Suffrage Atelier, c.1909

Banner of the National Union of Women Teachers, c.1908

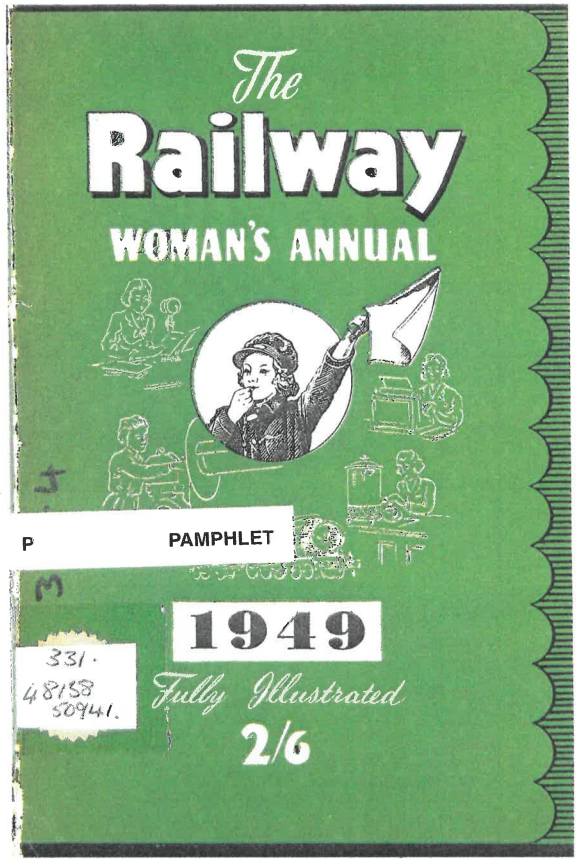
WORK



Memorabilia from the campaign for the ordination of women, c.1980

This campaign for equality at work goes back into the 19th century and stretches into the 21st. Women now have equality with men in career after career. They even have equal status in some religious organisations. But the Church of England resisted – even whilst its sister church, the Church of Ireland, had no problem with women clergy. The Movement for the Ordination of Women has had some success, but there is still much to do. Women Bishops in Britain, female Rabbis for Orthodox Jews, female Imams in Islam – it's all to play for.

Julia Neuberger

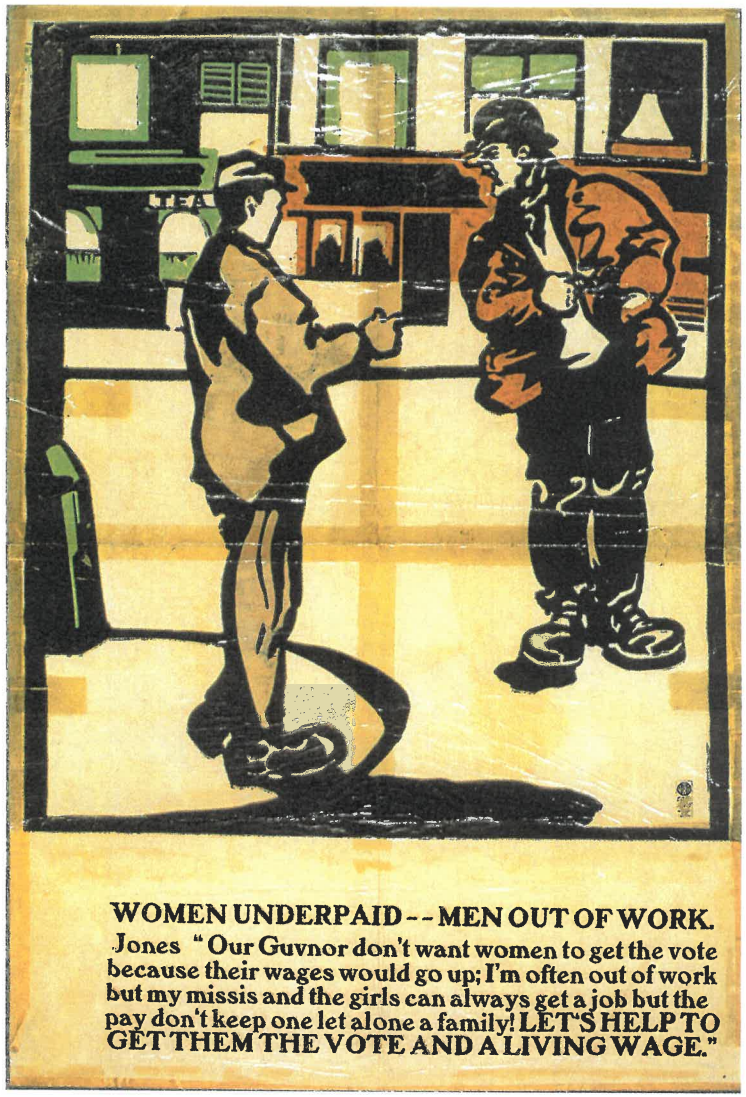


The Railway Women's Annual, Thomas Ashcroft (ed.), 1949

An aviation student went up for her license, and found the inspector very tough. Instead of being content with the usual landings he made her come into a spot. Again and again she hit the spot accurately, but, instead of passing her, he kept on sending her up, moving the spot each time. And each time she'd slide right into it. Finally the inspector gave up. 'Okay, she'll do,' he said. 'But I tell you it's a miracle.'

From 'Aviation – A Career for Girls', Amy Johnson, in *What Shall I Be?*, Collins, 1938

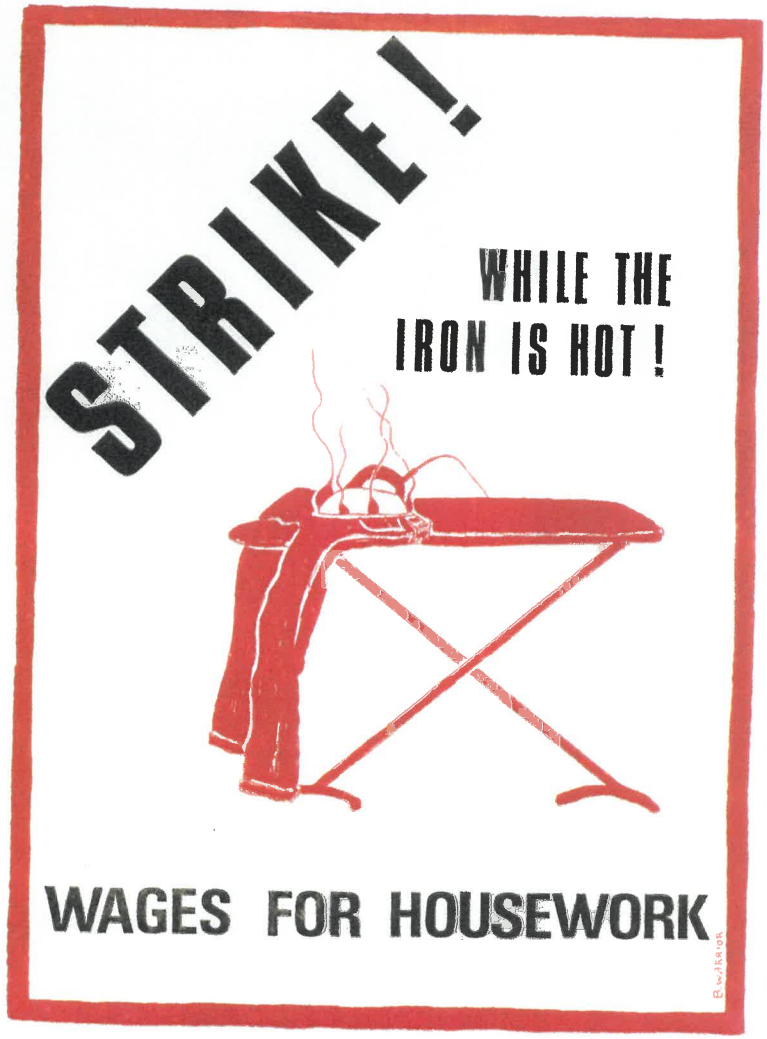
Ford Machinists strike over Equal Pay, 1968



Women Underpaid – Men Out of Work, published by the Suffrage Atelier, c. 1914

Mrs Doreen Hamilton has seven children… and a full-time job in teaching, on top of which she goes to evening classes and does church work. Everyone in her family does a part of the housework: duties are written up on a notice-board… On Saturday the week's menus are planned… Each night, dirty clothes are sorted to put in the automatic washing machine and tumble-dried the next morning. Those needing mending are done next evening. Daily, two beds have their linen changed. Weekly, a pair of net curtains is washed. One room a week is spring-cleaned between Christmas and summer… The children have to tidy their rooms and, in turn, lay table and wash-up in a dishwasher … Mr Hamilton (also a teacher) cleans all shoes, lays breakfast, stokes the boiler. The result of this clockwork routine is that adequate leisure time is assured for everybody, and no one person bears the whole burden.

From 'Keeping Housework Down' in *Jobs For Mothers*, Elizabeth Gundrey, 1967, Hodder and Stoughton

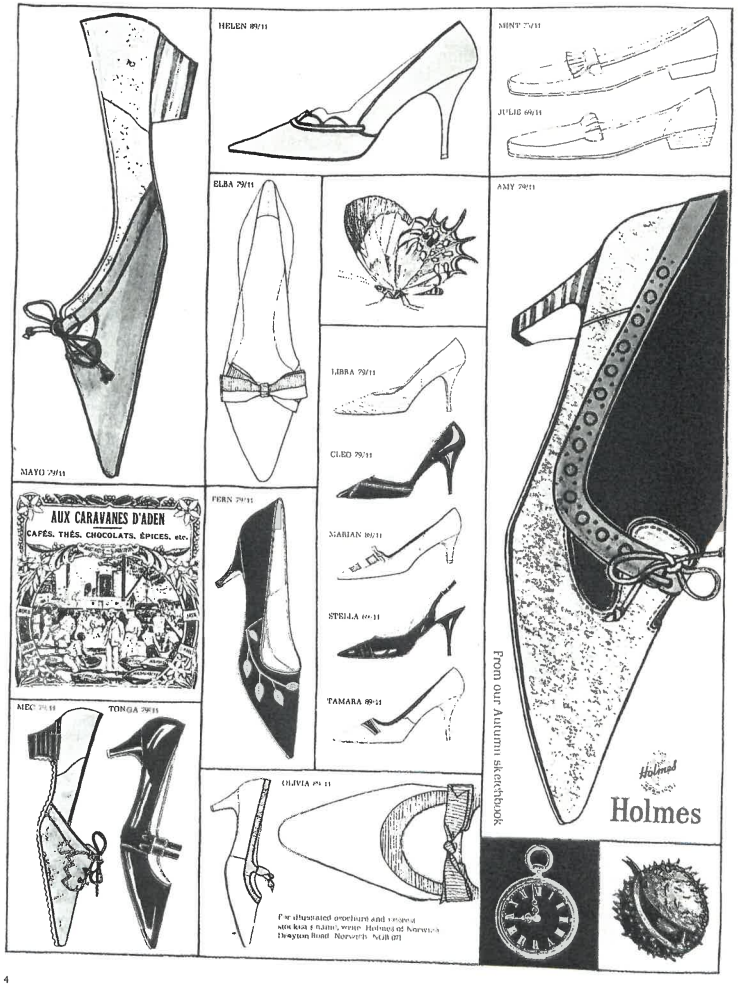


Strike While the Iron is Hot! from the Equal Opportunities Commission collection, c.1982

FASHION AND LIFESTYLE

Banner celebrating Joan of Arc, designed by Barbara Forbes, c.1908

Advertisement for Holmes shoes in *Vogue*, 16 October 1965



Housewife, June 1940

Portrait of Mary Quant by John Adriaan, early 1960's

First issue of *Spare Rib*, July 1972

When we started *Spare Rib* we had no idea what an institution it would become and that the name would live on forever… At the beginning, we really thought feminism meant liberation for both sexes and that the lot of being a bloke was pretty ghastly too.

Rosie Boycott

Jackie, 7 March and 26 April 1975

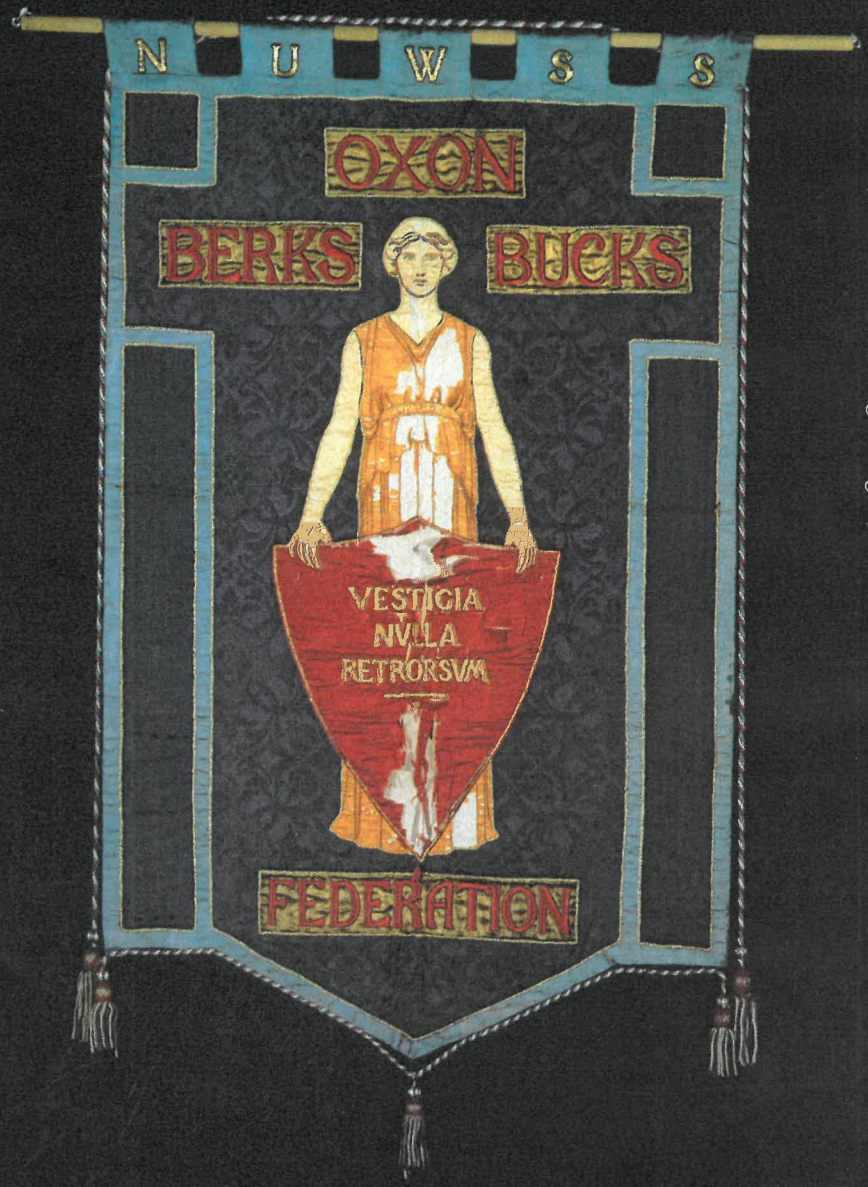
When I was seventeen and looking for a job I saw an advert in the *Evening Standard* for teenage writers. I was a teenager and I very much wanted to be a writer so I sent them a jokey article. To my astonishment and delight the magazine company, DC Thomsons of Dundee, paid me the very Victorian fee of three guineas and offered me a job on their new teenage magazine.

I was a shy girl from the London suburbs but the company thought I was part of the swinging sixties scene. They decided they'd give their new magazine my name – *Jackie*.

Jacqueline Wilson

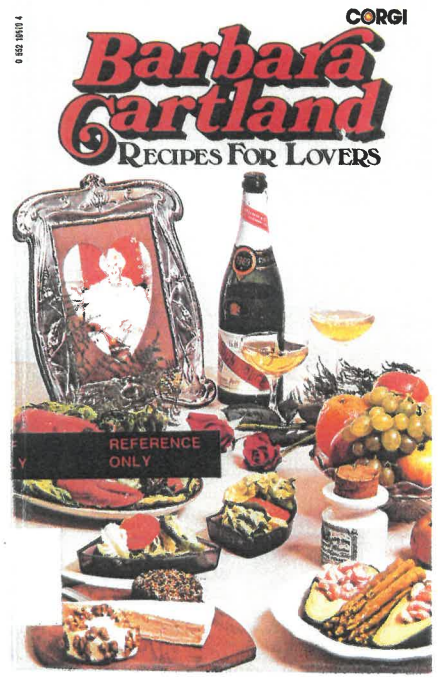
'Brotherly Love', photo-lovestory from *Jackie*, 22 October 1988

COOKERY



Banner of the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire Federation of the NUWSS, designed by the Artists' Suffrage League, 1908

Recipes for Lovers, Barbara Cartland, Corgi, 1977



If I had married Barbara Cartland style; in white lace, in a church, after a long engagement, would my marriage have lasted more than twenty-five years? My boyfriend David suggested we get married on Tuesday at four in the morning, we did so on the Friday at Kensington Registry Office, where I wore a pink mini coat from Biba…

I may not have married in the way Barbara Cartland would have advised, I may not have given my husband a buttonhole on each anniversary or cooked him a classic three course dinner – and we may not have got beyond our Silver Wedding. But I have many good times to remember, three lovely children, and an ex-husband who is still my close friend. So maybe I have a chance of living happily ever after.

Josceline Dimbleby

'A Pink Dinner', Barbara Cartland with Nigel Gordon taken from *Recipes for Lovers*, Barbara Cartland. Reproduced by arrangement with Rupert Crew Ltd.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

A PINK DINNER is a lovely way of celebrating the first time you met or the first time you made love. Have pink candles on the table and pink flowers, pink table-napkins, and of course wear a pink dress.

MENU

TROUT IN PINK COAT

PINK CHICKEN

STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM
HOT RASPBERRY SAUCE

COFFEE

WINE: Lanson Pink Champagne
or
Vin Rosé

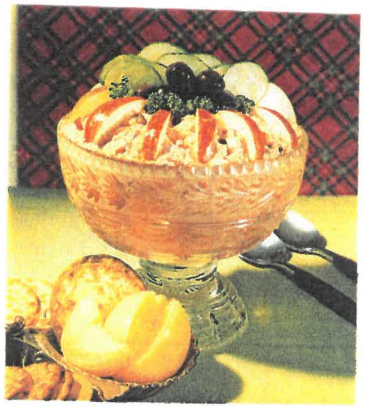
LIQUEUR: Rosé

113

'An Apple a Day' in *She* magazine, May 1963

AN APPLE A DAY . . .

Two lovely ways of keeping the doctor at bay



Salmon Mousse

Cost: about 9/6 Serves 4

1 oz. butter; 1 tbs. finely chopped onion; 1 oz. flour; ½ pt. milk; thyme, bayleaf, nutmeg; ½ lb. salmon (tinned or fresh); 1 level dsp. gelatine; 2 oz. stoned chopped black olives; 2 sticks celery, diced; 2 tbs. tomato ketchup; 3 tbs. mayonnaise; salt and pepper to taste; 1 lb. red eating apples; juice of 1 lemon; ½ cucumber, black olives, watercress (for decoration).

Melt butter in saucepan and gently fry the chopped onion until transparent, but not brown. Stir in flour and cook gently for 3 mins. Add milk gradually, stirring all the time. Add thyme (in a piece of muslin), bayleaf, grated nutmeg. Simmer over a low heat for 10 mins. Remove herbs and cool sauce.

Flake salmon finely and gradually beat into the sauce. Add gelatine, dissolved in 2 tbs. water, chopped olives, celery and ¾ diced red eating apple. Stir in tomato ketchup and mayonnaise and season to taste with salt and pepper. Pile into a serving dish and chill.

Just before serving, decorate with rest of apples cut into slices and dipped in lemon juice to retain colour. Fill the centre of the dish with black olives, finely sliced cucumber and watercress.

Open Apple-Cream Pie

Cost: about 6/6 Serves 4-6

For the pastry:	For the filling:
8 oz. plain flour	6 tart apples
Pinch salt	6 oz. sugar
2 oz. margarine	1 oz. flour
2 oz. lard	½ tsp. salt
Water to bind	½ tsp. cinnamon
	½ pt. double cream

Make pastry by sieving the flour and salt together. Rub in the fats until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add enough water to bind and knead lightly. Roll to fit a 9-inch pie dish. Prick well and bake blind for 10 mins. at 425°F. Mk. 6. Slice the apples thinly. Mix the 6 oz. sugar, flour, salt and cinnamon, add to the apples and toss together lightly. Place in the pastry shell and bake for a further 20 mins. Pour the cream over pie, and bake for another 10 mins. Serve with extra cream.

"Fish fingers? I didn't know fishes had fingers!"

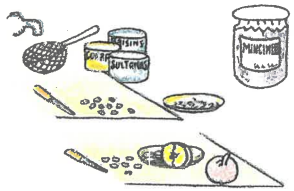
Cookery for Girls, Margaret Laskie, English Universities Press, 1950

Preserves *Section 16*

LEMON CURD.

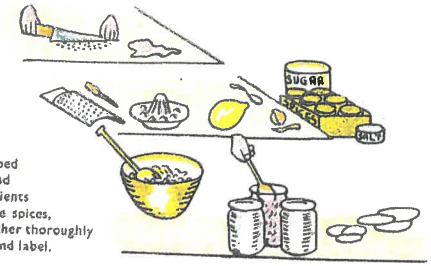
Recipe. 2 ozs. butter.
Rind and juice of two lemons.
3 ozs. sugar.
2 eggs.

Method.
Melt butter in saucepan, wash lemons, grate rind then squeeze juice. Add to butter in pan along with sugar.
Beat the eggs and add, stirring well with a wooden spoon. Heat very slowly. Remove from heat as soon as the mixture thickens.
Pour into jars, cover and label.



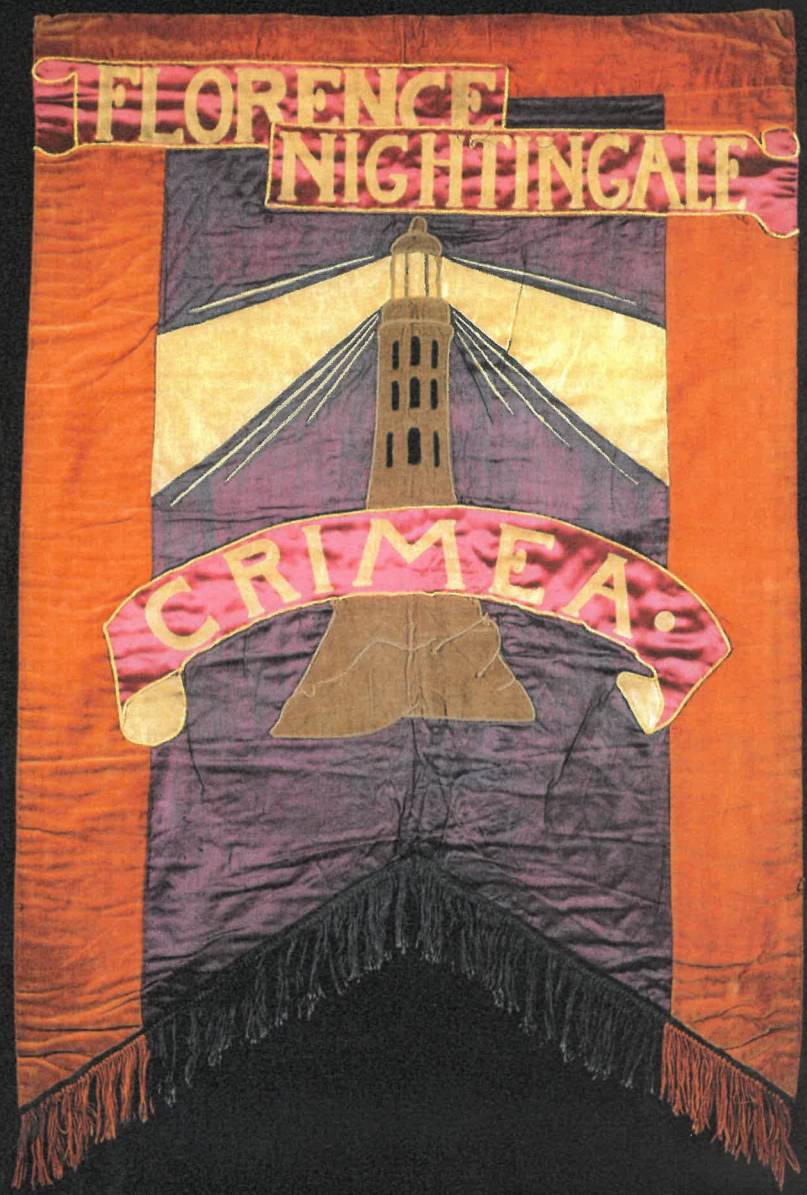
MINCEMEAT.

Recipe.
4 ozs. raisins.
4 ozs. sultanas.
4 ozs. currants.
4 ozs. suet.
4 ozs. brown sugar.
2 ozs. mixed peel.
2 apples.
Rind and juice of 1 lemon.
½ teasp. ground nutmeg.
½ teasp. cinnamon.
½ teasp. ground ginger.
½ teasp. mixed spice.
¼ teasp. salt.



Method.
Wash and pick over raisins, currants and sultanas, removing stalks.
Split, stone and chop raisins. Prepare apples (page 50) and chop finely.
Add chopped suet and chopped peel. Grate lemon rind and squeeze juice. Put all ingredients into mixing bowl. Measure spices, sugar and salt. Mix all together thoroughly then press into jars, cover and label.

HEALTH

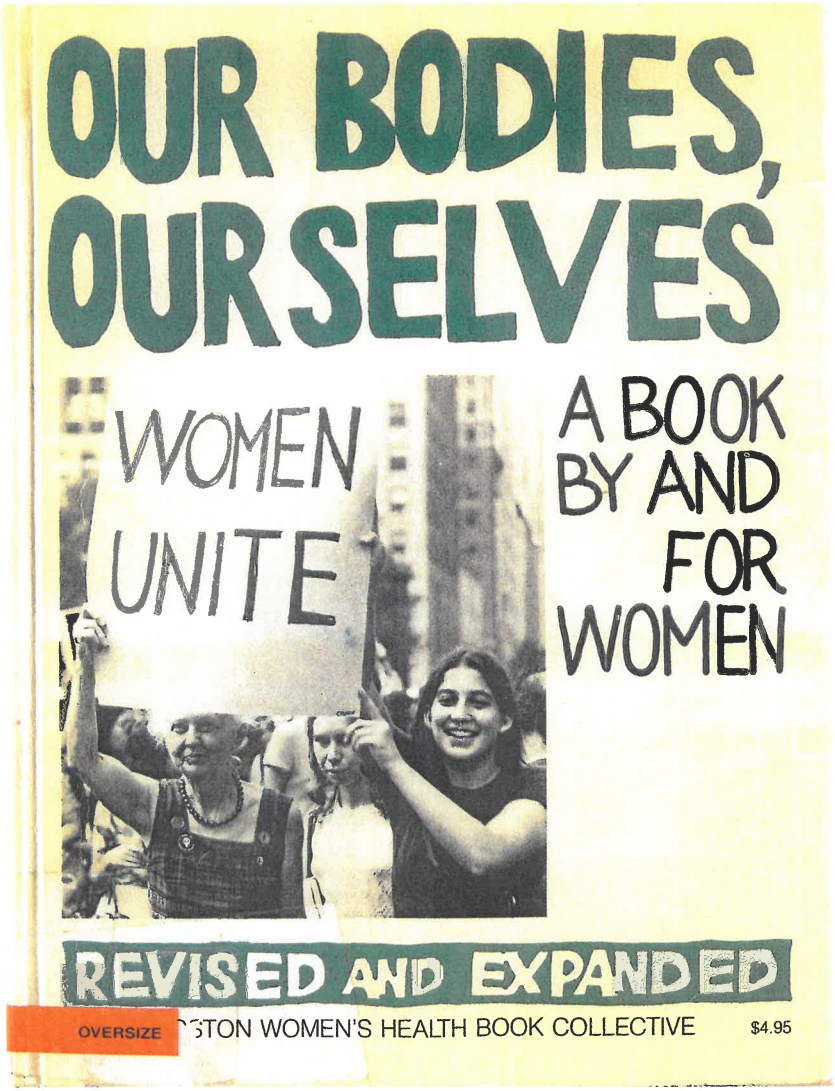


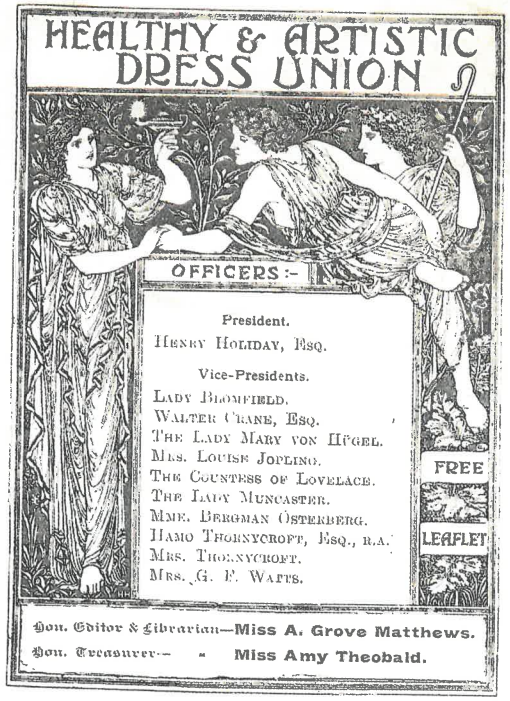
Banner celebrating Florence Nightingale, designed by Mary Lowndes, c.1908

Our Bodies, Ourselves, The Boston Women's Health Book Collective, 1971

'A man who does not know sick women,' one Victorian doctor wrote; 'does not know women'. Medical history is certainly part of women's history, and we could certainly argue that someone who does not know the history of sick women does not understand much about women generally. As the Boston Women's Collective phrased it in their pioneering medical self-help books for women, *Our Bodies, Ourselves*. But what is 'illness'? Does it include menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth, and menopause? What about exercise and fitness? How have these natural aspects of the female life cycle been treated by medicine, and by feminism in the past?... As women – ourselves – have played a greater role in medicine and health, we have certainly learned more about women's bodies and minds, and challenged much of the conventional wisdom of male medicine.

Elaine Showalter

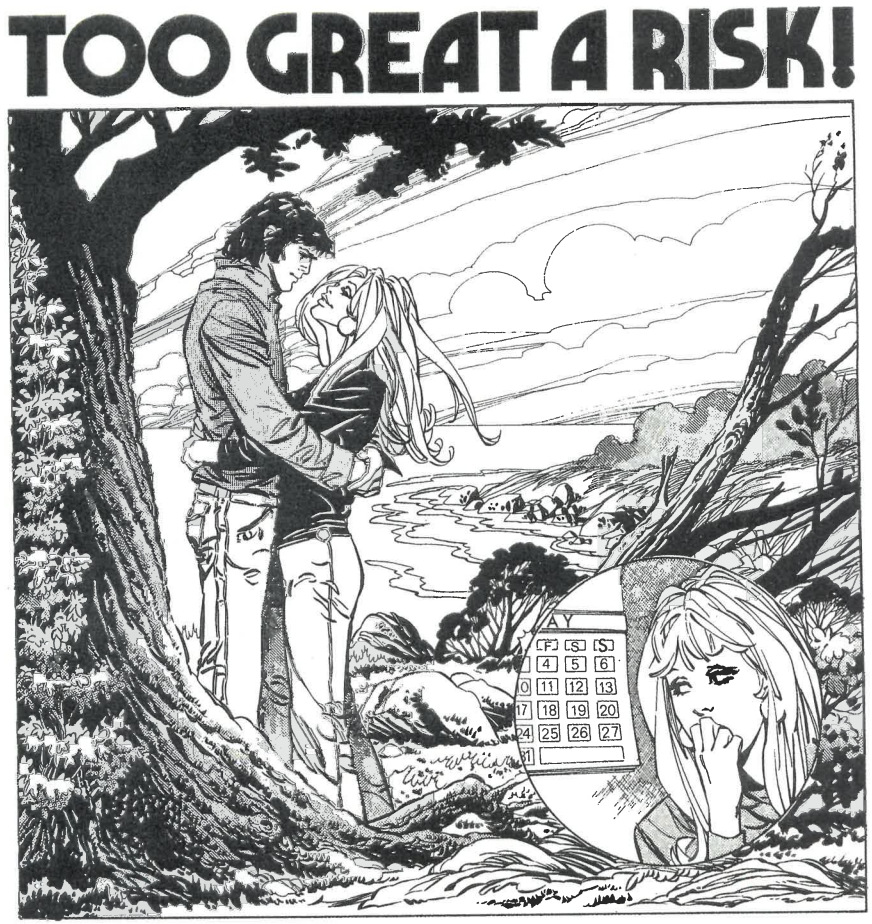




How to Dress Without the Corset.

THOSE who are asked to give up wearing the corset generally complain that it is impossible to dress comfortably without it; that its disuse means catching cold, great untidiness in appearance and in fact, general discomfort. All these points I hope to meet in this paper, giving what practical suggestions I can from my own experience, as one who for three years wore corsets and at the end of that time abolished them, and in consequence was obliged to reform her clothing.

How to Dress Without the Corset, E. M. W. Wheeler, The Healthy & Artistic Dress Union



Too Great a Risk!, The Family Planning Association

Too Great a Risk!, The Family Planning Association

Too Great a Risk!, The Family Planning Association

TRAVEL

Women's Freedom League Banner, designed by Miss Burton, c.1911

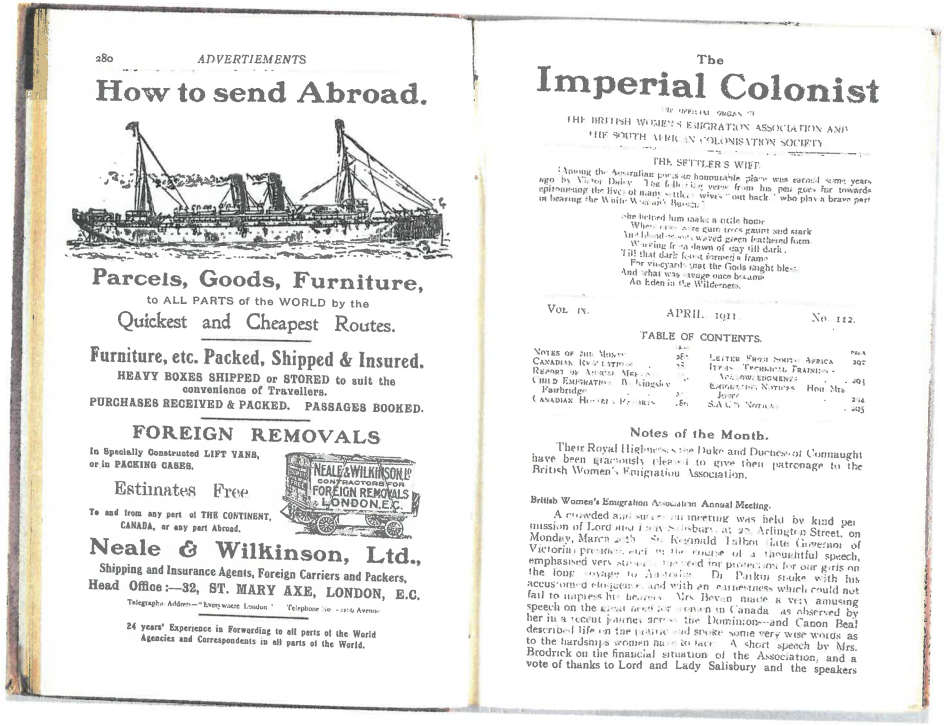
I've spent most of my adult life travelling for pleasure, often combining a trip with walking. I've walked in the Himalayas, Australia, New Zealand, France, Spain, America, the Caribbean, and of course, all over the British Isles. I've always kept diaries and scrapbooks of my travels, just like the formidable group of Victorian lady travellers who toured everywhere from India to Russia. This kind of travel is a middle class luxury, compared to the poor women who joined the British Women's Emigration Association. They crossed the world in search of decent jobs and the possibility of meeting a husband – both of which were in short supply in Britain. They travelled out of economic necessity, leaving family and friends behind. The hazards facing the lone female travelling in Britain led to the setting up of the Traveller's Aid Society. We've got them to thank for Ladies waiting rooms on stations, now sadly few and far between. Is travelling alone at night in contemporary Britain any safer than it was in Victorian times? A lot of women might not agree.

Women in Britain did not have the vote, but it didn't stop the rich and upper middle class adventuresses from packing their trunks and taking off to the tropics. Maude Royden met everyone from Ghandi downwards. Harriet White-Fisher and Lady Annie Brassey were two more intrepid females in search of thrills abroad. Back In Britain the idea of travel guides to beautiful areas like the Lake District was taking off, and women leapt at the chance to explore. Travel then, as now, was a way of escaping the dreary routine of day to day life, and a chance to broaden your mind and meet a wider circle of people. For Victorian women travel was a liberating experience, just as it is to me.

Janet Street-Porter

glass in windows but plastic bags
The fields are weeded perfectly —
lots of orchards with apple trees &
very well-kept vegetable gardens
yet no sanitation & dirt everywhere
in towns. Outside immaculately
graded & stacked firewood — like
lots of art. Hard to understand.
5.30 start tomorrow as long downhill
trek. Great idea to pee on plant
tray on balcony if desperate at night
When I asked Ang how as a Buddhist he
dealt with eating chicken he said he just
did extra chanting the next day & asked
for forgiveness 3 times - hypocrite!
Monday 13th April
Today is Nepali new year apparently
although we see little sign of holiday —
lots of people (mostly women) hard at
work as usual.
The fluorescent lights went out at 10pm
last night when the generator stopped
but we were fast asleep

Page from Janet Street-Porter's diary from her 'Trek to Nepal', 29 March – 17 April 1992



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The
Imperial Colonist
THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
THE BRITISH WOMEN'S EMIGRATION ASSOCIATION AND
THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLONISATION SOCIETY.

THE SETTLER'S WIFE.

Among the Australian poems an honourable place was earned some years ago by Victor Daley. The following verse from his poem goes far towards epitomising the lives of many settlers' wives "out back" who play a brave part in bearing the White Woman's Burden."

She helped him make a little home
When [illegible] are gum trees gaunt and stark
And [illegible] waved green feathered form
Working from dawn of day till dark;
Till that dark form of Death's frame
For vis-a-vis that the Gods taught bless.
And what was savage once became
An Eden in the Wilderness.

VOL. IX. APRIL, 1911. No. 112.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
Notes of the Month	265	Letter from South Africa	292
Canadian Revelations	268	Item: Technical Training	
Report of Annual Meeting	[illegible]	Acknowledgments	294
Child Emigration. By Kingsley Fairbridge	[illegible]	Emigration Notices. Hon. Mrs. Jones	294
Canadian Homes. Reviews	289	S.A.C.S. Notices	295

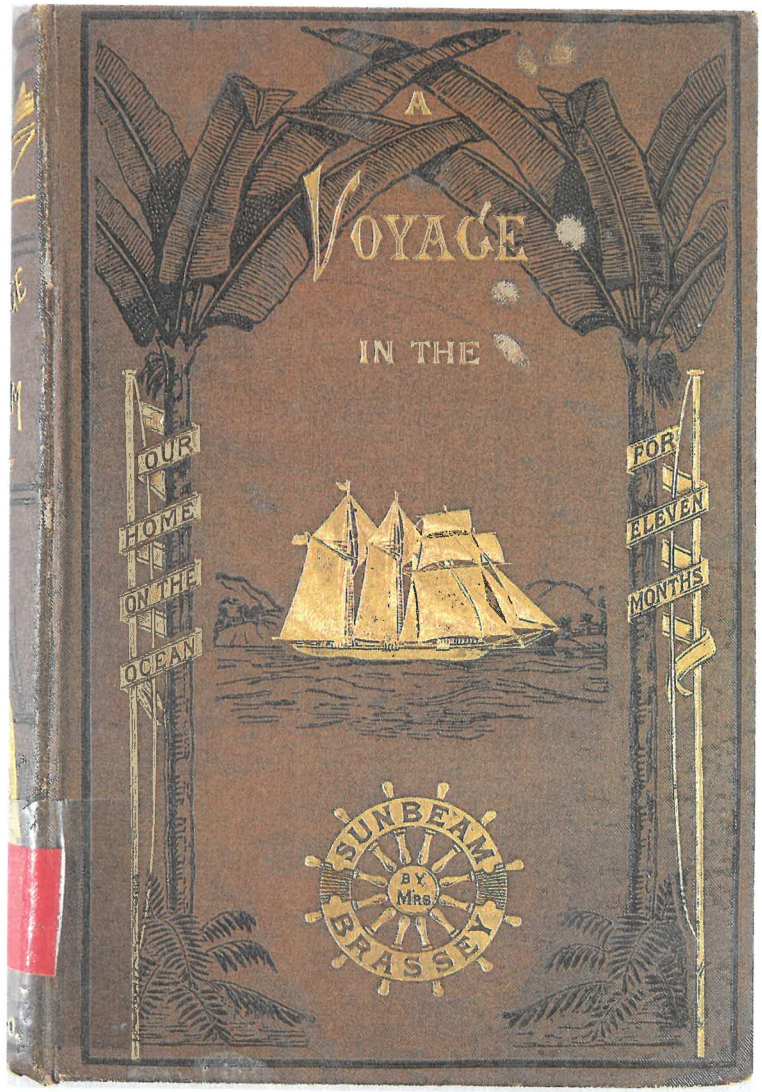
Notes of the Month.

Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught have been graciously pleased to give their patronage to the British Women's Emigration Association.

British Women's Emigration Association Annual Meeting.

A crowded and successful meeting was held by kind permission of Lord and Lady Salisbury, at 20, Arlington Street, on Monday, March 20th. Sir Reginald Talbot (late Governor of Victoria) presided, and in the course of a thoughtful speech, emphasised very strongly the need for preparation for our girls on the long voyage to Australia. Dr. Parkin spoke with his accustomed eloquence, and with an earnestness which could not fail to impress his hearers. Mrs. Bevan made a very amusing speech on the great need for women in Canada, as observed by her in a recent journey across the Dominion—and Canon Beal described life on the prairie and spoke some very wise words as to the hardships women have to face. A short speech by Mrs. Brodrick on the financial situation of the Association, and a vote of thanks to Lord and Lady Salisbury and the speakers

Pages from *The Imperial Colonist* Vol.10, No.12, Lady Knightley of Fawsley (ed.), The British Women's Emigration Association, 1911



A Voyage in the 'Sunbeam', Mrs. Brassey, Longmans, Green & Co., 1881

'Cooks and Campaigners' Selectors

Grateful thanks to all the exhibition Selectors.

Kate Adie first came to the nation's attention for her frontline journalism and news broadcasts. She is the chief news correspondent for the BBC.

Isabella Blow is the former Fashion Editor of *The Sunday Times* and contributing Fashion Editor of *The Face*.

Yasmin Alibhai-Brown is a Senior Research Fellow at the Foreign Policy Centre, a writer and a broadcaster. Her books include *Mixed Feelings* and *Who Do We Think We Are?*

Melissa Benn is a journalist and writer commenting on women's lives. Her books include *Madonna and Child* and *The Rape Controversy*.

Iwona Blazwick is Director of The Whitechapel Art Gallery.

Cherie Booth QC is a prominent barrister.

Rosie Boycott is a journalist and writer. She was founder Editor of the women's liberation magazine *Spare Rib* and was Editor of *The Express*.

Helen Carey is the National Chair of the National Federation of Women's Institutes.

Barbara Castle served in several Labour Governments, spearheading many reforms including those on equal pay. Her books include Sylvia and Christabel Pankhurst.

Bronwyn Cosgrave is a writer, journalist and Features Editor for British *Vogue*.

Edwina Currie was Minister for Health under Margaret Thatcher and has written many best selling novels including *Chasing Men*.

Jeremy Deller is an artist who works with groups as diverse as break-dancers, pensioners and miners. His reconstruction of 'The Battle of Orgreave' was made last year for Channel 4.

Josceline Dimbleby is a food writer and TV chef and has written a number of cookery books.

David Doughan was Reference Librarian of the Fawcett Library until April 2000.

Margaret Forster is a novelist, biographer and literary critic. Her recent best selling works include a biography of *Daphne du Maurier*, a memoir *Hidden Lives* and the novel *The Memory Box*.

Roderick Floud is Provost of London Guildhall University.

Susan Greenfield is Director of The Royal Institution of Great Britain.

Bonnie Greer is a playwright, fiction writer and cultural critic regularly appearing on *Late Review*. Her books include *Eating Guts with Princess Di*.

Loyd Grossman is known for hosting programmes such as *Through the Keyhole* and *Masterchef*.

Angela V. John lectures at Greenwich University and is co-editor of *The Men's Share? Masculinities, male support and female suffrage, 1890–1920*.

Helena Kennedy QC is a leading barrister and Chair of the British Council.

Martha Kearney presents Woman's Hour and is political editor of BBC2's *Newsnight*.

Sarah Kent is an art critic and Arts Editor for *Time Out*.

Jill Liddington is Reader in Gender History at Leeds University and is co-author of *One Hand Tied Behind Us*.

Bill Morris is the General Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union.

Jenni Murray presents Woman's Hour on Radio 4. Her books include *A History of Women Since World War II*.

Rabbi Julia Neuberger was Britain's first woman Rabbi and is Chief Executive of the King's Fund.

Maureen Paley is Director of Interim Art, London.

Marguerite Patten has been a cookery writer, demonstrator and home economist and first appeared on television in 1947. She has written over 165 cookery books.

Susan Philipsz is an artist based in Belfast and has produced a new commission as part of 'Cooks and Campaigners'.

Trevor Phillips has worked in television and is Deputy Chair of the London Assembly, a Labour Party Councillor and former President of the National Union of Students.

Kate Pullinger is presently Writing Fellow at The Women's Library and author of *The Last Time I Saw Jane*, *Where Does Kissing End?* and *Weird Sister*.

June Purvis is Professor of Women's and Gender History at the University of Portsmouth. She has edited *Votes for Women* with Sandra Holton.

Mary Quant is a fashion designer who became synonymous with the fashions of the swinging sixties most famously launching the mini skirt.

Claire Rayner has worked as an Agony Aunt in publications such as *Women's Own* and *Woman* and appeared on radio and television.

Rose Gray & Ruth Rogers operate The River Café, one of the best known restaurants in London, and have published two editions of The River Café Cook Book.

Michele Roberts is a Booker Prize nominated author and poet. Her most recent novel, *Fair Exchange*, looks at the experience of women during the French Revolution.

Sheila Rowbotham is an academic and writer and was a leading figure in the women's movement in the 1970s and 1980s. Her books include *A Century of Women: The History of Women in Britain and the US*.

Will Self has written a number of best-selling novels including *Great Apes*, *The Quantity Theory of Insanity* and *How the Dead Live*.

Elaine Showalter is Professor of English at Princeton University. Her books include *A Literature of Their Own: British Women Novelists from Bronte to Lessing*.

Janet Street-Porter is 'Editor at large' for the *Independent on Sunday* and is vice-president of the Ramblers Association.

Roy Strong was Director of the Victoria and Albert Musuem. His many best-selling books include *Gardening through the Ages* and *The Story of Britain*.

Lisa Tickner has written widely on suffrage, including an influential account of the visual culture of suffrage campaigns, *The Spectacle of Women: Imagery of the Suffrage Campaign 1907–1914*.

Polly Toynbee is an outspoken journalist for *The Guardian*. She received the British Journalism Award for Columnist of the Year in 1998.

Carol Vorderman is a television presenter best known for work with mathematics and science programmes such as *Tomorrow's World*.

Kirsty Wark presents BBC2's Newsnight and has written *Building a Nation* (with Ranald MacInnes).

Marina Warner is a novelist and critic whose books cover subjects as diverse as fairy tales, popular culture, cinema, the Virgin Mary and Joan of Arc.

Gilda Williams is Commissioning Editor for Phaidon Press and an art writer.

Jane and Louise Wilson work together as video artists. They are currently working on the opening exhibition for the new Baltic gallery in Gateshead later this year.

Jacqueline Wilson is a journalist and award-winning children's author most recently publishing *Dustbin Baby*.

Acknowledgements

We would like to give our thanks to the following for making the exhibition 'Cooks and Campaigners' possible:

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